

the crowd that while he had political differences with the Congresswoman's mother it didn't stop him from vigorously backing "Yvette" and helping to raise money for her. "I feel like I won too," said Perry who dropped out of the Congressional race early last year and then threw his support behind Clarke. "She will do great things for America. She is young and bright."

State Senator John Sampson was another of the elected office holders, who at the urging of both "Yvette" and her mother, not only backed her drive for the House but contributed campaign funds and material support. He became philosophical when he invoked the presence and role of the Almighty God in people's lives and reminded the Congressperson that prosperity and success breed many friends but "adversity proves them."

State Senator Kevin Parker, who had declined to back Clarke during the Primary, supporting Karl Andrews, at the time a State Senator from Brooklyn instead, said that he too was confident "Yvette" would succeed in Washington. In his brief remarks, the Borough President, who sat out the Congressional race by opting not to endorse any of the four candidates, said the new House member was "committed to public service."

Dr. Kendal Stewart, a City Councilman, joined in the chorus of praise, saying her victory was a reminder to immigrants and their children, "those who came by plane or by boat" that they too could succeed and perhaps follow in "Yvette's" footsteps.

Dr. Edison Jackson, President of the highly successful Medgar Evers College, put it differently, describing the lawmaker as a worthy "advocate" of the community that sent her to Capitol Hill.

When the time came for Clarke to respond after wiping away tears, she spoke out against the Iraq war and the Bush Administration's misplaced priorities which had resulted in \$130 billion needed to fix schools in the 11th Congressional District and elsewhere in the City, State and country being diverted to the Persian Gulf to finance a conflict "we don't want."

She said that as a member of the House's Committee that monitors the work of the Department of Homeland Security, she had already backed a measure, which would bring more funds into the City for the Police and Fire Departments as well as the Emergency Medical services.

Congresswoman Clarke insisted that the City urgently needed funds, federal dollars, for its schools, drug treatment programs and other social services. She took time out to thank the community, the hard-working campaign volunteers, staff and others who "came together" and worked to place her in Congress.

"I am thankful," she said.

She spoke about her parents, Leslie Clarke, father, and Una Clarke, mother, for the way they raised her, and the rest of the family from Jamaica who instilled core values in her.

With the Rev. Barbara Lucas as "the officiating minister, the celebration featured a mix of ecumenical blessings offered by a variety of religious ministers, including a Jewish Rabbi; dances by young performers of different cultural backgrounds; inspirational songs by a plethora of artists, among them was Brooklyn Temple Seventh Day Adventist mass choir; steelband music by members CASYM, a youth orchestra; and a celebratory procession by the Panamanian Marching Band. Dr. Harold Robinson, Trinidad and Tobago Consul-General, summed up the situation when he said that the Caribbean, the source of Congresswoman Clarke's early strength, might consist of countries with different languages but "we are all one."

Cynthia Brown-Franklin, Panama's Vice Consul-General, said afterwards "great things are expected of the Congresswoman and she will deliver on those dreams."

IN HONOR OF THE HONORABLE STANLEY W. TAYLOR, JR.

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2007

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize the career of Stanley W. Taylor. Stan has served in Delaware's Department of Correction for 30 years. He has proven to be a tough and formidable leader in an organization that requires exceptional skill, knowledge, and dedication. I commend Mr. Taylor for his years of service.

Stanley W. Taylor has been a Delaware resident since the age of 5. He was educated at Indian River High School and the University of Delaware. He began his career with the Department of Correction in 1976 when he served as a correctional officer at the Sussex Correctional Institution. He quickly moved through the ranks at Sussex Correctional, being promoted to the positions of correctional counselor, training academy director, security superintendent, and warden.

Stan's hard work and skill was recognized when he was promoted to chief of the Bureau of Prisons, a position in which he was responsible for all prison operations. When Department of Correction Commissioner Robert Watson retired in 1995, my colleague Senator TOM CARPER, who at the time was serving as Governor of Delaware, appointed Stan Taylor to serve as commissioner of the Department of Correction.

For more than 10 years, Stan Taylor has overseen an organization that is responsible for over 6,500 incarcerated offenders, over 18,000 probationers, and more than 10 correctional facilities. He is the first person in the history of the First State to begin his career as a correctional officer and rise through the ranks to eventually lead the Department of Correction as its commissioner.

I join with the people of Delaware to thank Stan for his continued dedication to the correctional system. He has served in a role that can be difficult at times, but is a necessity to the security of our State. I commend him for a life of service and thank him for his tireless dedication to Delaware.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2007

Ms. CARSON. Madam Speaker, on Monday, January 22, I was unavoidably detained in my home district and unable to record my roll call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on Rollcall vote #46.

HONORING BOBBY L. MAXWELL

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Bobby L. Maxwell. Mr. Maxwell may not be familiar to you or to most of America, but on January 23rd, he accomplished something that the Bush Administration has failed to do for the last six years: hold oil companies accountable.

During recent consideration of H.R. 6, the Creating Long-term Energy Alternatives for the Nation or CLEAN Act, our Democratic majority called attention to the fact that the Minerals Management Service (MMS) at the Department of the Interior has failed to collect millions of dollars of royalties from oil and gas companies drilling in public waters. The Administration has largely ignored this problem and possible negligence by top officials at Interior, but last week's federal court decision that the Kerr-McGee Corporation has underpaid the government by approximately \$7.5 million should serve as a wake up call on both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue.

Unlike the Director of the Minerals Management Service and others at Interior, Bobby Maxwell did not turn a blind eye to the problem of oil companies underpaying or refusing to pay royalties for the use of public lands. Mr. Maxwell used to serve as a top auditor at MMS, but while he was doing his job investigating royalty underpayment by Kerr-McGee and others, senior Interior Department officials ordered him to drop his case. Additionally, Mr. Maxwell lost his job due to a "reorganization" shortly thereafter.

Bobby Maxwell did not give up, though. He knew that Kerr-McGee and others were cheating the Federal government and the American taxpayers out of millions of dollars, so he became a whistleblower. Despite having lost his job, Mr. Maxwell continued to stand up to the oil companies by bringing suit under the False Claims Act.

The jury found what Mr. Maxwell and many of us already knew: Kerr-McGee had indeed failed to pay the Federal government approximately \$7.5 million they owed for oil production from publicly owned coastal waters. I regret that Mr. Maxwell had to lose his job to expose the greed of this company and the failures at MMS, but his story is a positive one. Both he and the Federal government will benefit from his diligence and service. Kerr-McGee will have to pay significant penalties as a result of underpayment and false statements in their royalty reports. Additionally, Mr. Maxwell is not alone—three other auditors from MMS have filed whistleblowing cases against companies that the Interior Department blocked them from investigating.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Maxwell and these other dedicated public servants deserve our recognition and gratitude. They have stood up and declared that the public's trust and money both deserve our attention, respect, and protection. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Mr. Maxwell and congratulating him on a job well done. Let us follow his example by continuing to put accountability ahead of corporate profits.